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GILMAN'S HISTORICAL READERS

No. I.

THE · DISCOVERY · AND EXPLORATION · OF · AMERICA

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GILMAN'S HISTORICAL READERS.—No. I.

THE

DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION

OF

AMERICA

A BOOK FOR AMERICAN BOYS AND GIRLS

BY

ARTHUR GILMAN, M. A.,

AUTHOR OF A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, FIRST STEPS IN ENGLISH LITERATURE, FIRST STEPS IN GENERAL HISTORY, TALES OF THE PATHFINDERS, THE STORY OF THE SARACENS, ETC.

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PREFACE.

THE history of our country naturally divides itself into three portions. First, there is the period of *Discovery and Exploration*, when men of different nations were pushing toward the West on the track of Columbus,—trying, as he did, to find the coast of Asia, making desperate efforts to sail around the "island," as they thought it, which barred their way, and finally settling down to the conviction that they had come upon a continent; but never giving up the belief that some stream might be found that would afford them passage through to Cathay. It is with this romantic time that the present volume deals.

The second period is that of *Colonization*. Then the explorers had given place to the pioneers who were cutting down the forests and building homes for themselves. The third period is that of *The Making of the American Nation*, when the English colonists, having become supreme, were pushed off by an obstinate king, and after a century of experiences, became possessed of the traits of a nation.

The effort of the author in this volume is to tell the story of the adventurers in a simple style, not always avoiding the use of words that young readers cannot be

expected to understand, but leading them from point to point, enlarging at once their vocabulary and their acquaintance with the subject.

No branch of the work of education seems to the author of greater importance than this of giving the young their first impressions of the history of their own land. With a deep sense of this truth, the latest authorities have been made tributary to this volume, and the author has spared no pains to have it correct in every statement of facts, and in the difficult matter of dates.

The work is a study of authorities, under the lead of such writers as those who have contributed to Mr. Winsor's invaluable "Narrative and Critical History of America," and of those whose works are mentioned in the very extensive notes appended to its different chapters. For other authorities the Library of Harvard College has furnished ample resources, and they have been extensively used.

Among the works especially valuable for the period covered by this volume are the narratives of the early navigators, found in the publications of the Hakluyt Society and elsewhere. The young are not qualified to investigate these books, but they contain much that is of great interest to them.

The more difficult words are explained at the close of the volume. The author limits the list in the hope that the young reader may not be discouraged by it, and he trusts that teachers will cultivate in them the habit of consulting dictionaries and other works of reference. Such a habit is of great importance, for no book contains all that may be well said on any subject.

CAMBRIDGE, May, 1887.

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THE DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION OF AMERICA.

CHAPTER I.

A WORD ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY.

THERE is a great difference between the history of America and that of many other countries. If you try to learn the history of England, for instance, you find that you are carried back into ages far gone, when all is dark and blank. No one knows much, if anything, about the first people who lived in that country. We can find out about the men who were in England when our fathers lived there; and we can go back to a time before America was heard of, or even thought of; but at last we come to the names of such

persons as king Arthur, and of Pendragon who is said to have been his father, and we cannot be sure that they ever lived.

Back of those days we find stories, however, that we can believe. There was a man who came to Britain from Rome, and said that he conquered the land. His name was Julius Cæsar, and we have his accounts of what he found and of what he did. We can be very sure of the fact that he went to Britain from Gaul. Gaul is the name by which France was called ages ago. Farther back than that we cannot go in English history.

We may, it is true, dig up pieces of stone, and perhaps scraps of copper and iron, which tell us that there were men in Britain before the time of Cæsar, and from these articles we can learn something about them and their habits.

We can see that the pieces of stone were shaped by them in some way to be used as hatchets and arrow-heads, or perhaps as harpoons. We can be sure that these people lived near the seashore. They were afraid of the wild beasts of the forests, and could more safely catch fish for their food than hunt animals. We can find great stones made into regu-

lar shapes and piled up in a way that nature never could have put them; but we cannot even guess how the men of that early time contrived to move such immense weights, or to trim such stones.

After all, when we have dug into the earth as much as we can, to find out what the first men of England did and how they lived, it is little we can learn about them. They did not write, and it is not easy to carry stories from one man to another without writing them down, even if the men live at the same time. When they live hundreds of years apart it is only possible for one set to know what the former did if the father tells his son, and sends the story along in that way. It is not a good way to carry a story. Stories are changed by passing from mouth to mouth, and often come to the last hearer in a very different shape from their original one.

Suppose, for instance, there had been a great man ages ago, and the men of his time had told about him to their sons, and they again to theirs. I think that his brave acts would have seemed greater to the son than they did to the father, and greater still to the grandson, and so on, until

after a while men might think that he could not have been a man at all, but a giant, or a child of the gods. The next step would be to think that he was himself a god; and thus in time the great man would be worshiped by his own descendants. No doubt such things have happened.

There is no danger of this sort in the case of the history of America. Not only did men know how to write at the time that our history begins, but they knew how to print, as you shall see. When books are written, they are laid away carefully on shelves in libraries built for the purpose, and there they remain safe until many sons and grandsons of the writers have read them, and thus the stories in them are surely known many, many years after they were first written. This is true of books that are only written; but when a book is printed, many copies are saved. As they are in different libraries, it is pretty safe to say that they will not all be destroyed by fire or decay for ages.

So you see, we may be quite sure of the principal facts in the history of our country, even from the very beginning of it. There are difficulties, however. The men who wrote the first books about

America did not always know as much as they ought, and thus they may have made errors. If they wrote about what their friends and neighbors did, they may easily have been mistaken; and if they wrote about what they did themselves, they may have forgotten some things, or they may have omitted acts that they did not want to have remembered.

CHAPTER II.

HOW THE ROUND WORLD MOVES.

THERE are many other reasons why it is not always easy to get at the real truth of history. Men in early times did not know some facts that are very plain and familiar to us now. They thought that they knew, however, and wrote as if they knew.

It was supposed in the olden time that the world did not move; but even the youngest child knows now that it is the sun which stands still, while the earth rolls around on its axis from west to east every day. It is for this reason that the sun's light comes to our eyes in the morning over the eastern hills, and fades away in the west at nightfall.

Not only did our forefathers think that the earth stood still, but they supposed it to be an immovable,

flat, round island of great size floating in an immense sea called Ocean. They were acquainted with Greece and Italy, and with portions of Asia and Africa, but they thought that the Mediterranean Sea, which they called the Great Sea, or, affectionately, Our Sea, stretched almost from one end of the world to the other. Around this sea the great nations of the world were settled "like ants or frogs around a marsh," as Socrates said.

In the course of time astronomers began to understand that the earth could not possibly be flat, for they saw that its shadow was round. Then they thought that it might be shaped like a cylinder or roller. After a while some ventured to suggest that it was a globe, as it is; but no one was quite certain of this until the year 1520, when a daring shipman had sailed around it, going to the westward from Europe and returning by the way of Asia. This man was named Magellan.

About a hundred years before this, however, a book was written in which it was said that ships might sail completely around the earth, as we know that they can; but so strange did the notion appear that few believed it. The writer of that book, and

it was a very strange one, was said to be a certain knight, "Sir John Mandeville," but now-a-days scholars suspect that there never was such a knight, and that some skilful writer concealed himself under that name. There is no doubt that this book was made out of the stories of real travelers. One of them was Marco Polo, who had gone to the East, and had given the people of Venice marvelous accounts of what he had seen. He was the most remarkable of all travelers. This shows how difficult it is to find out the truth when much time has passed.

An old geographer named Ptolemy, who lived in Egypt fifteen hundred years before "Sir John Mandeville," had held the same opinion that is expressed in his book, but he thought that all the other parts of the universe revolved around our little world!

Not only does the world itself move, but it is a very interesting fact that the nations on it have steadily moved also. No one knows on what spot the first man lived, but there are good reasons for believing that it was somewhere in the center of the continent of Asia. There, among the highest moun-

tains of the world, at any rate, lived the men who were forefathers of the Greeks and Romans, of the French and Germans, and of the English and American people. History tells us that the children of those people of Asia have been slowly traveling westward for ages. They first crossed over into the center of Europe in large bodies; and then they passed to the islands of Britain, where they lived for hundreds of years before they got any farther.

During all these long periods of time these people seemed to be looking westward, and asking themselves what might be found there. Some of them dreamed of a land of gold, or of a country where the people never grew old, in the direction of sunset. So they went to the edge of the great Atlantic ocean and peered out into the fogs which hid the distance from them.

They began to talk about wondrous islands in the mysterious sea. Some even ventured to describe them and their inhabitants. In those early days men were very ready to believe wonderful stories. Some of their vessels, puny and small as they were, had been driven by the winds out into the ocean, and thus, much against their will, they had discovered

some of the islands that lie in that region. In this way they had accidentally found the Canaries, the Madeira Islands, and others, and thus their imagination had been excited. There were giants there, they said; there were sirens; there was the bright home of a fair maiden and her lover, who had fled from England in the gay days of romance, when Edward the Third reigned, and there were their graves! In some regions, they said, ships with iron in them could not sail, because there were loadstones that drew the nails out!

CHAPTER III.

SOMETHING LIKE A WONDER-STORY.

IF you look at a map of the world you will see to the north of England a great many islands that stretch out towards Iceland and Greenland from Norway. These are the Orkney, the Shetland, and the Faroe Islands. They reach almost all the way to Labrador, and it would not have been strange if some seamen should have sailed from one to another, and thus have actually reached America long ago. If we look at the other side of America, we find that it reaches still nearer to Asia, and we can see no reason why men might not have sailed across from that direction too; perhaps they did both.

The men of Norway were strong, and loved to battle with the sea and with their neighbors. They

lived in a country where the salt water extends far up into the land in a great many places. High rocks form the steep sides of the inlets. They are called *fiords*. Though a fiord is simply a bay or inlet, we always think of such a rock-bound bay, when we see the name, because the word is used for that particular kind of a bay in Norway.

Men who love battle make quarrels for the sake of fighting, and the men of this country who are called vikings, or sea-robbers, found much of their employment in going out from their fiords in strong vessels to fight their neighbors, and to make themselves rich with what they could take from them. They went to Iceland and far into the Mediterranean Sea and to Russia. When they got home again they boasted of what they had done, and their singers sung songs about their exciting adventures. These singers were the poets of the northland. We know that poets do not always feel bound to make their poems true history. They wish to stir the men who hear or read their words, and they make the acts they sing of as grand and noble as they can. The skalds of the north-lands, as the poets there were called, wished to make sagas, or sayings, that would

stir their hearers. Stories of adventure would do this, and of battle with enemies.

Therefore the skalds made it out that their heroes had done wonderful deeds; had ventured into distant regions, and had seen things that surprised them. They did not write these songs down; they sang them, and thus they went from mouth to mouth, from father to son. We cannot tell how much of them to believe. Perhaps it is not important; because whatever the vikings did, it does not concern Americans much.

The stories tell us that about eight or nine hundred years ago the vikings, who were, you must know, the best sailors of the time, actually sailed from island to island until they reached our shores. There they visited a pleasant region that they called Vinland, because they found grapes in the woods. They liked the country, and tried to establish a colony. This was at about the year 1000. The first Norseman who got across would not have done it if he had not been lost in a fog. He sailed in an opposite direction to that which he intended. The name given to the discoverer of Vinland is Leif. He failed to found a colony, and no other Norseman was more successful.

Where Vinland may have been no one can tell. It has been thought that it was on the coast of New England. There is an old round tower in Newport, Rhode Island, that was once supposed to be a relic of the Norsemen, but hardly anybody thinks so now. There is a stone on the brink of Taunton River, in the town of Berkeley, which bears some marks that were once thought by some to have been cut ages before the English saw it; but nothing can be made of them, and the best we can do is to suppose that the Indians chiseled the marks.

About fifty years ago a skeleton in armor was dug up near Fall River, and Mr. Longfellow wrote a poetical story upon it, in which he brings to mind in a lively way the days of the Norsemen, and the tales of their skalds. In it we can almost see the bold men launching their graceful barques on the wild Atlantic, and sailing like fierce cormorants through storm and hurricane towards mysterious Vinland! This is as much poetry as any saga of the ancient skalds. In fact, the whole account of the visits of the vikings to America must be set down as very like a wonder-story.

CHAPTER IV.

THE HOLY LAND AND RICH CATHAY.

PEOPLE are generally so much interested in what others are about, that when one man begins to do anything new, many others follow his example. A hundred years after the time that the vikings are supposed to have sailed to Vinland, there was a great stir in sleepy Europe which excited men more than they had been excited for ages. A good pilgrim who had traveled to Jerusalem went about the countries telling the people that the Saracens, who then owned the Holy Land, did not honor the Holy Places connected with the life and death of Jesus.

He roused the people everywhere so much that they thought that God called them to go to the Holy Land and to take it away from the Saracens.

The result was that for two hundred years Christians everywhere were filled with enthusiasm on the subject, and thousands and thousands of warriors roamed over Europe, through Asia Minor, and across the Mediterranean, until they came to Palestine, where they fought the Saracens. Sometimes they gained victories, but just as often they were terribly defeated.

Men had not been accustomed to travel much before these times; but then they found that there was enjoyment as well as thrilling adventure to be gained by going from land to land. They learned many things, too, for those who stay always at home know but little about the ways of the world. The hosts of crusaders who went to Palestine heard of other wonderful lands, and found that there were things in them that they would like to have. Thus foreign commerce sprung up. Many pilgrims passed through Italy, and the cities there became rich after a while. Then other cities also entertained pilgrims and became rich. When in the process of time men discovered that they could guide their ships by means of the compass, they became bolder and commerce grew more extensive.

Through the stories of Marco Polo, and other

travelers, men in Europe heard of a country called India, of an island called Cipango, and of Cathay, the empire of a great ruler called the Grand Cham. Cipango was what we now call Japan, and the empire of Cathay was China. In those lands there were gold and diamonds and pearls; there were great elephants, and lions and leopards and griffins, and beasts of the most marvelous kind. There were ants that collected gold for men, and filled vessels with it. There were trees that bore lambs without wool, bread that did not need to be cooked, and meal and honey. There was such wealth there that the pavements of the palaces were of silver and gold, and above all, — and perhaps this was the chief attraction of the Eastern lands, — there was a fountain of youth of which if a man drank he never would grow old.

It was not easy to reach Palestine. It was more difficult to get to India; and to reach Cipango and Cathay required long, dreary marches through the wastes of Europe, over the high mountains between the continents, across burning deserts on the back of a camel, and ever so much sailing on the Mediterranean Sea, or on the seas that stretched around the eastern countries. It did not matter to those men

that there was more wealth to be made by cultivating the soil at home than there was by going on these toilsome voyages into the midst of unknown perils. They kept on doing the harder thing, only hoping all the time that some easier way might be found to go to India and Cipango. The hope of gain kept them all wide awake.

CHAPTER V.

HOW SAILORS SEARCHED THE SEAS.

MEANWHILE the sailors of the Mediterranean were searching every nook of the sea, and even venturing into the Atlantic to see if they could discover what there was of Africa beyond the waters in which the Canary Islands lay. Slowly and surely the mariners of Spain, under direction of Prince Henry of Portugal, — called the Navigator, because he thus encouraged discovery, — sailed down towards the equator and beyond it, until, in 1487, one Bartholomew Diaz was driven by furious winds quite around the southern end of Africa. On his way home he discovered the promontory that we call the Cape of Good Hope, though he called it the Cape of Tempests, because he had so much trouble in getting around it. He did not see it

when he passed it the first time. This was a step towards the route for ships to India for which Prince Henry was searching, though it was not understood at the time.

Sometimes the ocean washed up on the shores of the islands west of Europe bits of wood that showed that they had been carved by men's hands, and with them came cane-stalks, and at last two bodies of drowned men drifted ashore. Once a pilot sailing far out into the Atlantic, hundreds of miles west of the coast of Portugal, picked up such a curious piece of carved wood, which seemed to have come from the West. Again, the waves cast up trunks of great trees of a kind not known on the islands. Once a mariner from St. Mary, one of the Azores, said that in sailing northerly he saw land to the west, which his company took to be Tartary. Thus the testimony of years gave one man, at least, reason to think that the coast of India, or Cathay, or Cipango, was not very far distant, and that these articles had drifted from there.

Though most men still believed that Ocean was the bound of all the earth, and that its terrible winds, huge fishes, frightful tempests, and great depth would

forever keep sailors from visiting the mysterious islands that they were sure lay hidden in its mists, it was not so with all. There were a few who were sure that the earth was a globe, and not a very large one either. They agreed with "Sir John Mandeville," in whom they fully believed, that if the earth were a globe there must be some way around it, and that by going far enough towards the west a sailor would in time reach the Indies. What brilliant visions rose in the mind of the man who thought of a short way of getting to India, to the rich gold-hills of Cathay, and the diamond-fields thereabout!

CHAPTER VI.

PRINTING BOOKS AND LEARNING FROM THEM.

THERE was another reason why men at the time of which I am speaking should have been wide awake. They had just begun to print books, and thus knowledge was beginning to become more common. Italy was the foremost country of Europe. To it there had come a great many Christian scholars who had before that time lived at Constantinople. They left their homes because the city fell into the hands of the Saracens, whom they considered their enemies. They wrote books, and studied the old Greek language and the great books that learned Greeks had written ages before. Such men as these naturally helped Italy in its progress, and as learning increased, prosperity followed in other affairs.

Now it happened that at about the same time that men began to print books, and at the same time that these learned men came to Italy,[1] there was born in the vicinity of Genoa, on the beautiful blue Mediterranean, a little boy whose name is now known everywhere because he grew up to become the most successful of all the navigators of his time, and the most celebrated of all time. In his own language this boy's name was Christofero Columbo, but in our day it is written Christopher Columbus.

This boy lived in a place where the sea was always before him, and where he saw little to attract him on land. He became infatuated with the free life of the sailor, and his father naturally remembered this as he selected the studies for him in his young days. His favorite books were two, — the geography of Ptolemy, written about sixteen hundred years before, and the travels ascribed to Mandeville, written about a hundred years before. So slowly did men live in the days of Columbus, that neither of these books

[1] This was in the year 1453, but we do not know in what year printing was invented, nor exactly when Columbus was born, though the great discoverer probably first saw the light a few years before the fall of Constantinople.

could be called "behind the times" then. In his first school he was taught something of reading, writing, drawing, and arithmetic, and when he went to the university he learned what he could of geometry, astronomy, navigation, and geography; though little was known on the last-mentioned subject even in enlightened Italy.

Map-makers drew vague outlines of the countries, putting down islands in the seas where they thought islands might be, and drawing pictures of land and sea monsters in the regions that they confessed they knew little or nothing about. However, in these days people were learning how little they really knew of the earth on which they lived, and were diligently seeking information in every direction. Their imaginations were on the alert and they were gratified by every new bit of information that came to them.

It was no play-day enterprise to go on a voyage in the Mediterranean in those days. Nations, cities, and private noblemen, all had their vessels on the waters preying on whatever they met, and not hesitating to shed blood if they could not obtain the mastery over their opponents without. When vessels came together they grappled and fought until night

put an end to the struggle, unless one or the other gave way, or unless the hand-grenades or other fiery missiles set the vessels on fire and sent them to the bottom.

For a score of years the sturdy young sailor busied himself in voyaging over the Mediterranean; but then he seems to have heard of the enterprises of Prince Henry of Portugal. Certainly he followed the crowd of strangers who were drawn to Lisbon by the exciting stories of discoveries made by navigators. Portugal, which had before been almost an unknown country, now rose to a position of great importance. Lisbon, its capital, was constantly stirred by the stories of adventurers coming home, or by the expectations roused by others just setting out for unknown regions.

CHAPTER VII.

A YOUNG MAN FROM ITALY.

HERE the young man from Italy became acquainted with a daughter of an Italian navigator. She attended service with him at the chapel of the convent of All Saints. After a while the two strangers were married. The bride's father was not living, and the young husband was taken to her home, where he found the papers left by the old navigator, and heard tales of his many voyages and adventures. Columbus soon began to make voyages himself.

He went to the Gold Coast, and made maps of the regions he visited. Gradually he obtained some reputation for making good maps, and was brought into correspondence with men of science and influence. For a while he lived on Porto Santo, one

of the Madeira Islands, and there his son Diego was born.

The world of navigators was alive with the longing to discover the passage to India that Prince Henry had thought might be found by sailing down the coast of Africa, as indeed it might. The ships came and went from the harbor of Porto Santo, carrying brave sailors full of stories of all sorts of adventure, and of wild imagination about the mysterious islands that were supposed to lie to the westward.

Any active young man would have listened to such stirring accounts as these mariners brought, and Columbus did not neglect them. He talked them over with wiser men, and compared them with each other. He read what had been written in time past about the world, its size and form, and about men and companies of men who had been known to go out into the Atlantic and be lost.

While Columbus lived at Porto Santo, and, indeed, the very year that Diego was born, which was 1474, he had some important correspondence with a learned Italian about the discovery of western lands. This man, Paolo Toscanelli, believed that India and Cathay might be reached by sailing westward, and in one

letter he gave an interesting account of the magnificence of Cathay, taken from Marco Polo. Probably this had a great influence upon Columbus; at any rate, it seems to have caused him to study Marco Polo's work.

Toscanelli sent Columbus a remarkable map. On it the coast of Asia was drawn in front of the western coasts of Europe and Africa, about where America really lies. There were many islands very conveniently arranged between the continents. Cipango was the largest. It was some distance east of Cathay, and nearer Europe still were the Island of St. Brandan, and then the Cape Verde, Canary, and Madeira Islands. It seemed as if a man might strike them one after another by sailing westward.

When we look at the great ships that sail over the ocean to-day, we are in danger of forgetting that in the time of which we are speaking there were none of that size and kind. The ships in which Columbus sailed down the coast of Africa and to the islands, were smaller than most that we see in our rivers and lakes. Many of them were called caravels, which your dictionary tells you means light, round, old-fashioned ships with square poops. They had high

bows and sterns, with castles on the sterns; their masts were short and their sails were square; they had no decks, and they were so frail that one would not dare, now-a-days, to venture far from land in them. Columbus, however, did not think large vessels were adapted to the purposes of voyages of discovery, as they required too much depth of water, and might not be able to explore bays and rivers.

CHAPTER VIII.

WHAT THE YOUNG MAN THOUGHT ABOUT THE WORLD.

COLUMBUS agreed with Sir John Mandeville that the earth was round; but he thought that it was so small that the sea could not be very wide that stretched from Spain to India. He knew nothing of the continent that lay between. He put together all the information that he was able to gather, and then argued from the nature of things that he was right. He did not see any objection to his theory. Every piece of wood that floated from the westward made him more confident. Every reed washed ashore by the west wind was strong enough to strengthen his faith.

He not only thought the globe smaller than it is, but he was sure that Asia was much greater than it is, and extended farther around towards the Atlan-

tic. His mistakes are of little consequence now, but if he had known the truth, perhaps even his strong will would have been too weak to lead him to enter upon his perilous voyage.

The Crusades had failed to drive the Saracens permanently from the Holy Land, and Columbus thought that perhaps he might accomplish the great work, if only he could attack the Moslems from the other side. One of his chief desires, as he expressed them, was to extend the Christian religion. Everywhere he went he made constant inquiries about the land of the Grand Cham, hoping that at some happy time he might actually come upon wealthy Cathay. He was poor, and year after year passed away without bringing to him any definite hope that he should ever be able to set forth on his great voyage. This did not keep him from making short expeditions, and in one of these he is supposed to have visited Iceland.

There were many reasons why men had not ventured much out of sight of land in their ships in early ages, and in fact at any time before those of which I am now writing. They had no means of telling where they were when they could not see the

shore. At the beginning of the century in which Columbus lived the mariner's compass had been brought into more general use, and other helps to the sailor had been invented.

Just at the time that Columbus needed it, while he was delaying his voyage, indeed, an invention was made that proved of great service to all navigators. There was an ancient instrument called the astrolabe, which had been used for ages by astronomers and astrologers as a means of finding the position of the stars. It was at this time first applied successfully to the uses of the seaman. By means of this he was able to tell his latitude on a chart, though not very accurately, no matter how far he might be from any shore. This imperfect instrument was in time given up for the quadrant or sextant, which was invented about one hundred and fifty years ago by a friend of Sir Isaac Newton in England, and by Thomas Godfrey in Philadelphia at the same time.

CHAPTER IX.

COLUMBUS ASKS KINGS TO HELP HIM.

IT was not long after this application of the astrolabe to the uses of the sailor, that Columbus began earnest efforts to obtain help in carrying out his great enterprise. He had argued and studied upon the question long enough; now he determined to act as soon as possible. No way seemed open to him unless he could influence some sovereign to give him money and ships, and no sovereign would do this unless he could be made pretty certain that the enterprise would bring back more money than it cost. Here was a difficult problem for the enterprising Italian to solve.

Portugal had been in advance of the world in making voyages of discovery, and therefore it seemed most promising to apply to the king of that country.

Columbus made the application, but alas he failed! He sent his brother to ask king Henry the Seventh of England to take advantage of the opportunity to add glory to his reign; but he was not successful.

Columbus then turned to Spain, at that time ruled by Ferdinand and Isabella. They were then engaged in fighting the Saracens, who had been in the land more than seven hundred years. In 1485 Columbus obtained an opportunity to present his case to the Grand Cardinal of Spain at Cordova, and we may be sure that he argued it with earnestness.

At first the great dignitary was inclined to think that the views of the navigator were opposed to the Bible; but at last he decided that they should not be condemned until they had at least been heard by king Ferdinand. The king was impressed as the Cardinal had been by the earnest eloquence of the petitioner; but even he was not willing to decide in his favor until he had obtained the opinion of a body of wise churchmen.

These wise men were not wise enough to see how there could be men on the other side of the globe, standing with their feet toward those on the other side. They asked Columbus what the Bible meant

when it said that the heavens were spread out as a curtain and as a tent. "How," they asked, "can the rain, snow, and hail fall upward, and the trees grow with their branches downward?"

These men thought that the globe, if it were a globe, must be so great that it would take two or three years for a ship to sail around it. They were sure that if a vessel were to succeed in getting to the opposite side, it would certainly be unable to sail back again, for it would have to go up-hill!

In vain did Columbus try to explain that the Bible was not given to men as a book of science, but that it contained language adapted for the understanding of those for whom it was written; and that ships had, in fact, gone a part of the way around the globe without having any difficulty in sailing back again. The counselors of king Ferdinand would not be convinced, and they sent Columbus away with his petition ungranted.

Was the poor mariner cast down by all this delay and opposition? One might expect him to lose every spark of hope; but it was not so. He patiently followed the king and his court, as they went from camp to camp in the course of the great war against the

Saracens. Probably he was much interested in the struggle, for he was as desirous as any one to see the arms of Christian Spain win victory over the enemy. The conference with the churchmen had been held at Salamanca.

Two years later Columbus was called to confer with the king, who was then pressing the siege of Malaga, but the work of war was so exciting that there was no opportunity for the king to hear the sailor. Then there followed another year of suspense. In the course of it the king of Portugal and the king of England sent Columbus word that they would like to see him, and they gave some encouraging promises. Both of these tempting offers were declined, and it must have been because Columbus felt quite sure that Ferdinand would give the desired help.

CHAPTER X.

DELAYS AND HEARTACHES.

IN 1489 arrangements were made for another conference between Ferdinand and Columbus at Seville. Lodgings were provided for the sailor, and everything else duly arranged; but, alas! another campaign opened, and no conference could be held. In this campaign, — one of the most glorious of all in the long war, — Columbus is said to have taken active part. Queen Isabella attended with an unusually stately train. Not long afterward one of the rival kings of the Saracens surrendered.

Then there came news of greater sufferings by Christians in Palestine, and a strong desire to go on a crusade was kindled among the fiery Spaniards. The year 1490 came, and with it the proud entry into Seville by Ferdinand and Isabella, and the fes-

tivities connected with the marriage of their daughter to the son of the king of Portugal. Winter and spring passed. They were crowded with feasts and tournaments and processions; and what thought could a king and a queen give then to the petition of a sailor offering to show them a way around the world!

After these shows had passed another campaign opened, and again Columbus was thrust away. Still, he determined to make one great effort before the army was actually in the field, and to get, if possible, an answer; for he thought that even a refusal would be better than any longer suspense.

Some consideration was shown him, but finally a repulse came. The sovereigns said no, but at the same time gave Columbus some hope that, if ever the war should close, the matter would be considered again. It would seem like a forlorn hope.

Almost heartbroken, Columbus now turned his thoughts toward France, and actually set out to go there. On his way to take ship he stopped with his child at the gate of a convent to ask food, and the prior took interest in him, heard his story, detained him as his guest, and at last sent a messenger to the queen with a letter urging her to consider again the cause of poor Columbus.

Isabella returned a favorable answer, and soon the prior himself went to see her. He made an earnest plea for his guest, showed the queen how honest his offer was, how much to the glory of Spain success would be, if won, and led her to call Columbus to her side again.

We need no words from history to assure us that Columbus was happy as he received from the prior the money that the queen sent him for expenses of the journey to her court. It was then at a new town called Santa Fé, near Granada. The siege which was destined to close the war was in progress. Columbus rode on a mule provided by Isabella, and was clad in new clothes bought with her money.

When he reached Santa Fé it was just in time to see Boabdil, the last of the Saracenic kings, come out of the palace of the Alhambra to deliver the keys of Granada to the Spanish sovereigns, and to witness a brilliant triumph, after a war of eight years. During the whole of this time Columbus had been looking in vain for the help that his heart now assured him was soon to come.

It was eighteen years since the design had first been formed. The queen listened with interest; but

at last, in consequence of the advice of her priests, replied that the enterprise, magnificent as it was, would be purchased at too great a cost! Then Columbus mounted his mule firmly determined to turn to France, in accordance with his former intention.

He slowly rode away over the plain that spreads out around Santa Fé and Granada. Just as his mule was about to disappear from sight he was overtaken by a swift messenger, who told him that the queen had offered to pledge her jewels, if necessary, to raise the money needed to fit out the expedition. Gladly he turned the beast toward the rocky heights and soon reached Santa Fé, where he had another audience with the queen.

CHAPTER XI.

TWO TRIUMPHS AT ONCE.

IT was a brilliant scene that Columbus witnessed when the last of the Moorish kings gave up the keys of Granada. A great crowd of people gathered to see the ceremonies, which on one side were so joyous and on the other so sad. Every three minutes the dull boom of the guns of the fortress thundered forth, and in the midst of the noise Boabdil came out and handed the keys to Ferdinand in token of defeat and submission.

He said: "These keys are the last relics of the government of the Saracens in Spain! To thee, O king! are our kingdom, our castles, our person. Such is the decree of Allah! Take them, but treat us with the kindness thou hast promised!" To

the new governor of Granada Boabdil handed his costly ring, saying: "With this signet have I governed Granada. Take it, and rule with it, and Allah make you more fortunate than I have been!"

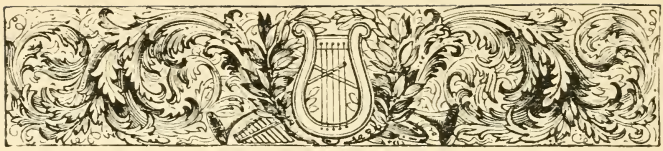
As Boabdil rode away from the city he too, like Columbus, turned before he got out of sight of its towers and palaces. As he saw for the last time the crucifix sparkling in the sun above the lovely Alhambra he burst into tears, and cried, "Allah is great!" The spot has been called the "Last sigh of the Moor," and is remembered as carefully as the one on which Columbus stopped his mule, when he looked back and turned again toward the court at the call of the queen. Boabdil went away in despair; Columbus entered with glorious expectation.

The hopes of Columbus were well founded. Good queen Isabella saw him immediately, and atoned for all past delays by the honest interest that she took in influencing Ferdinand to enter into the agreement with the mariner. On the seventeenth of April the important paper was duly signed by the sovereigns and the sailor at Santa Fé, which made Columbus and his heirs and successors admirals in all the lands that he might discover in the ocean.

One tenth of all the precious stones, gold, silver, spices, and other merchandise, however obtained in the new lands, were to be the admiral's. He was to be sole judge in all disputes that might arise out of the commerce that was expected to be created.

Columbus had been very positive that he ought to have all these honors and privileges secured to him before he should start. If he had not been determined about this he might have made an agreement with Ferdinand before he did. The queen sympathized with Columbus in desiring to spread the Christian religion, but doubtless the more worldly-wise king was greatly influenced by the visions of gold, silver, and diamonds that he saw before him. The treasurer paid the bills, and Isabella did not have to give up her jewels, as she said she was willing to.

Columbus expressed the devout wish that the wealth that was to come to Spain should be consecrated to a Crusade to take the sepulcher of Christ away from the Saracens. He believed that he was to be the agent of God in effecting this great work.



CHAPTER XII.

MORE DIFFICULTIES.

THE difficulties of our hero were not over when the agreement was signed. On the third of May, with a joyful heart, Columbus bade the court farewell and started for Palos, where he intended to get his ships ready. There he was met by his faithful friend of the convent, — the same who had before interested Isabella in his behalf.

On the twenty-third of the month they went to a church where many of the inhabitants and officials had been called to attend. There the orders of the sovereigns were read with much solemn pomp, and the authorities promised obedience; but when they learned the real nature of the expedition they were filled with dismay. Brave sailors refused to venture on such an enterprise. Every frightful tale of the

dangers of Ocean that could be remembered was conjured up, and weeks passed before any progress could be made in getting ships and men.

The king and queen heard that their subjects refused to obey their commands, and sent officers to Palos to force men to supply the ships, and to oblige sailors to go on them. Even then every difficulty was put in the way of Columbus. The men who were to get the ships ready for sea did the work so poorly at first that no one would dare to set out in them. When they were brought back to do it over, they refused, and ran away. In the same spirit the sailors, after being forced to enlist, would desert and hide themselves.

May passed away; June came and went; and yet the little vessels were not fitted out. July passed and August began before the ships were ready; but then every difficulty had been overcome, and as the sun rose on Friday, the third of August, three frail barques slowly steered toward the southwest, bearing ninety sailors, a physician, a surgeon, several priests, some gentlemen and servants, — in all one hundred and twenty persons, with provisions for a year.

It was not a gay party upon which that morning

sun looked down. Every man was filled with a sense of the awfulness of the enterprise. Columbus had gone to church, and had taken the communion. The officers and sailors had followed his example. Palos was full of weeping men and women, for there was scarcely a household that did not have some relative on the squadron that sailed out into the unknown sea. At last, committing themselves to the special care of Heaven, with tears and forebodings, in depression and sadness, they started out in pursuance of the orders of their sovereigns, and under the stern command of the determined Columbus.

CHAPTER XIII.

A NEW WORLD DISCOVERED.

LOOK at the little fleet as it sets out on its momentous voyage. There is the Santa Maria, with the flag of the admiral at its head, a little vessel of but a hundred tons; and there are the Pinta and the Niña, still smaller. They were to go to the Canary Islands first, and then to steer right westward. They did not know it, but they could hardly have taken a longer course across the ocean.

Columbus must have felt very solemn for another reason. He knew that his men did not want to go with him, and he could not tell how soon they would refuse to obey his commands. At any moment they might mutiny, and then he would be powerless, if he should not lose his life. There were good reasons

for such fears as these. One day the Pinta's rudder would not work, and it seemed that some one on board had broken it, hoping thus to compel Columbus to send the vessel back to Europe. It was difficult to repair the break, and a delay at the Canaries of some weeks was made necessary. The volcano of Teneriffe happened to pour forth its smoke at the time, and the sailors took it as an evil omen. As soon as possible, therefore, Columbus left those islands and pressed westward.

August passed day by day, and the three ships were not beyond the Canaries; September was gone, and yet there was no hope of soon seeing Cathay. On the twenty-fifth of that month one of the sailors had, indeed, thought he saw land, but he was mistaken, and the hopes that he had roused were dashed. The men threatened to mutiny. Columbus was afraid to let them know how far they had sailed. He therefore kept two records of the voyage, one of which was true and the other false. On the false record, which was the only one the sailors saw, the distance was set down day by day much less than it really was. I am sorry to have to confess this for the brave admiral. The situation became threaten-

ing as well as hopeless, but still Columbus kept right on!

He was not rewarded until Friday morning, October 12, when, as the sun rose from the sea, tokens of land appeared in the distance. Full daylight showed that the ship was off the shore of an island, and that its naked inhabitants were gazing in astonishment at the sight of the approaching vessel. Then the crew thronged around their commander, kissing his hands and begging favors, or asking humble pardon for the misconduct that they had been guilty of on the long voyage.

For seventy days the frail vessels had tossed on the treacherous sea; but now they lay at peace in transparent waters beneath bright skies, surrounded by all the luxuries of a warm climate. The mariners considered themselves the favorites of Heaven, though they had thought themselves its outcasts.

With evidence of religious gratitude, Columbus landed, and took possession of the country in the names of Ferdinand and Isabella. Throwing himself on the earth he gave thanks to God, with tears of joy, as he kissed the long-looked-for soil of a New World!

Columbus did not then know where he was. Neither do we know. There are several islands on which he may have landed. I find among the Bahamas, Cat and Watling's Islands, and from their situation I am inclined to think that Watling's was the one that Columbus landed on. He said it was called Guanahani, but he named it San Salvador, that is, Holy Saviour. He did not doubt but it was one of the many islands near Cipango that he had seen on the map sent to him by Toscanelli.

It is rather amusing to know that when Columbus landed he was so sure that he had reached Cipango, that he sent by the natives certain letters that Ferdinand and Isabella had given him to present to the Grand Cham!

CHAPTER XIV.

COLUMBUS AT HOME AGAIN.

WE cannot imagine the joy that Columbus felt when he stepped ashore and said to himself, "I was right: the Indies do lie to the westward from Spain; I can now give to my sovereigns the wealth that I promised!" Though he was doubtless in haste to give the intelligence of his success to those who had sorrowed so much as they saw him sail away with their friends and neighbors, he did not immediately return to Spain.

He occupied three months in cruising among the Bahama Islands, and the West Indies, as they are still called on account of the mistake that Columbus made in thinking that he had reached the shores of Asia. He sailed thus along the coast of Cuba, which he was sure must be Asia, and then set out

on the return voyage to Palos. He carried with him some of the natives to show to his countrymen. He called them Indians, because he thought he had reached India. He took also specimens of the birds and of the products of the islands.

It was not until the fourth of January, 1493, that Columbus thought best thus to set sail for Palos again. The winter is said to have been very stormy on the Atlantic, and the little vessels were tossed about in a most frightful manner. At times Columbus, brave as he was, feared that he should never see Spain again. He was specially troubled at the thought that the story of his wonderful discovery would never be known. Finally he wrote an account of the voyage on parchment, and wrapped it in a waxed cloth. This he enclosed in the middle of a cake of wax, and put the parcel in a barrel, which he cast into the sea. He gave his men to understand that he was performing a religious vow.

His anxiety was so great that this did not satisfy him, and he prepared another account in the same way, and placed it on the high poop of his caravel, so that if he should himself be swallowed up by the angry waves his story might by chance float to shore.

In spite of all the dangers of this rough voyage, the Pinta at last reached land, but it was off the harbor of Lisbon and not Palos. Nothing but bad weather would have made Columbus stop at Lisbon, for it is in Portugal, and you know that the king of that country had not been willing to help in the beginning of the enterprise.

However, Columbus was obliged to cast anchor, on account of the storm. He put the best face on the matter, by sending word that he had arrived, and asking permission to go to Palos. The truth is, he was afraid to remain at Lisbon because there was a report that his vessel was loaded with gold that he had found in the rich new world.

I cannot tell you of all the honors that were now poured on the poor mariner who a few months before had been begging to be listened to. There were acclamations of the people, the sounds of drum and fife, and finally, most remarkable of all, an invitation from the king to visit him at Valparaiso. Though it was but thirty miles to this place, it took Columbus two days to get there over the bad roads, and in the rain that poured down on him.

The king treated the great discoverer with the

utmost consideration, and listened to his account of the voyage with deep interest. When the story had been told, Columbus was escorted back to his ship by a long train of cavaliers.

A few days later, in the middle of March, he found himself the object of still more interest in the harbor of Palos, from which he had so dolefully sailed out seven months before.

The shops were closed, the bells rang, every one was in a state of excitement, and there was such a tumult as Palos had never known. Everybody seemed to forget the difficulties that they had put in the way of Columbus when he started. With one accord they threw up their hats and shouted their loud acclamations as they followed his steps through the city.

There was a man in Palos who did not hear these sounds with joy. It was the commander of one of the ships that had gone out with Columbus. He had deserted his admiral as soon as he was certain that land had been discovered, and had hastened back to Spain to get the honor himself. When he entered the harbor of Palos at last, he found that the place was in an uproar of excitement, and that Columbus, who ought to have received it, was enjoying the honors! It is said that he died of vexation.

CHAPTER XV.

A ROYAL WELCOME.

FERDINAND and Isabella were at Barcelona, a city on the Mediterranean, several hundred miles away. Between the two places there were many mountains and rivers and plains to be crossed, if one were to go thither by land. Columbus had certainly sailed enough for the time. When, therefore, the king and queen invited him to come to them to tell again his wondrous story, you may be sure he did not hesitate to take a mule, for though that animal is slow, he is steadier and surer than the blue waves of the Mediterranean.

We can hardly imagine this journey. "Don Christopher Columbus, Admiral of the Ocean Sea, and Governor of the Islands discovered in the Indies," was on his way to court to meet the great rulers of

a rich land. He had with him six Indians, whose swarthy faces and strange garments added to the interest of the people as he passed slowly along. Then there were the curiosities, the birds and fruits, that had come from the New World.

Women who had never ventured farther from home than the nearest parish church, children to whom the whole world was new, men who had heard that a wild and perhaps crazy sailor had a year before set out to risk his life on the western sea, — all these crowded around the band as it drew its little length over the high mountains, forded the streams, probably flooded by the spring thaws and rains, and traced the dull road from Palos and Seville to distant Barcelona.

How many times, think you, did Columbus have to stop to tell his tale to the local dignitaries on the route? How his heart must have swelled with exultant delight as he pressed with difficulty through the excited crowds that thronged the roads! When at last he entered Barcelona, about the middle of the bright and genial month of April, as the hidalgos and courtiers came out to welcome him, he must have felt much as an ancient Roman general felt at the moment of his triumph!

The sovereigns had ordered their throne to be set out before the whole people, under a golden canopy. It was a triumph for them as well as for Columbus. There they waited, as Columbus, mounted on a gayly equipped charger, made his way through the countless multitude in the streets. As he approached the throne, he offered to kiss the royal hands, but Ferdinand and Isabella hesitated to permit such an act from one who seemed so far above ordinary mortals. They raised him from his knees and gave him a seat by them as he told his story. When it was done they sank on the ground, clasped their hands to heaven, and, with joyous tears led the multitude in thanks to God for his wonderful providence. The choir broke forth with the Te Deum, and each Spaniard in the throng felt that he had tasted heavenly delights, so devout did every one feel.

The triumph of Columbus was long, but it came to an end. Then his active mind was occupied with plans for other voyages. He would go to rescue the holy sepulcher; he would go again to the new land; he would gain gold and slaves and honors for himself and for his sovereigns and for the church. What

visions did not rise before his eyes as he thought of the deed he had done, and of what might yet be accomplished!

Yet neither Columbus nor Ferdinand, nor the Spanish people, nor the Pope, nor any of the potentates to whom the news came, knew at all that a New World had been found. They thought that Columbus had fallen upon the side of Cipango that had not before been seen. That was wonderful enough.

CHAPTER XVI.

COLUMBUS MAKES MORE VOYAGES.

OF course the news that Columbus had crossed Ocean spread quickly over Europe. There were merchants who carried it; there were travelers ever on the lookout for strange facts; there were learned men, just as alert then as they are now to ask and tell information; and there were ministers at the different courts whose special business it was to report to their own sovereigns what they could that might be of interest or advantage.

There was at the court in those days a man bearing the rather strange name, Peter Martyr, who had many friends in distant places. They had no newspapers, and could get news from foreign lands only by letters. So Peter Martyr, who loved to write letters, turned reporter, and sent the great news of

the day from Barcelona in many directions. He was a man of less than forty years of age, and had a good reputation for learning. He went directly to the great Admiral, and got from his mouth the information that he put in his letters. How interesting those letters must have been to Peter Martyr's friends!

Genoa heard the great news,—Genoa that, as we have been told, had not listened to her own Columbus when he asked for help to make the voyage! England heard it; and another Italian, John Cabot, was inspired with a wish to make discoveries in the Ocean Sea himself. King Henry the Seventh said of Columbus, that the discoverer was a thing more divine than human, and regretted that he had not himself been the patron of the successful voyage.

There was no difficulty now in getting men and ships to go to the Indies. On the 25th of September that followed the grand reception at Barcelona, the sun again rose on a fleet that had been fitted out to sail westward; but it was not three small caravels. There were three great ships of burden, and fourteen caravels, all impatient to be off. What a hurrying there was, as the friends came to bid

farewell to those who were departing! The sordid speculator and the earnest minister of religion, the mere adventurer and the bronzed navigator, were going, and each was a center of joyous interest; while the navigator himself was the object of the intensest curiosity. The fleet sailed gayly out of the harbor, followed by the good wishes of hundreds, and blessed by the bright smiles of heaven. It was supposed that in a few weeks or months it would return freighted with untold riches. Such was the great contrast that Columbus experienced. On the first departure even his friends shrank from him, and no one wished to give him aid; now all were proud to help him as much as possible. Twelve hundred men went with him this time.

It was three years before Columbus saw Spain again. During the time of his absence he explored the islands, founded a town, and, alas! made the first war with the natives, whom he had come to convert to the true religion. When he returned he carried with him to Spain the first slaves that had been taken from America to Europe. It was not thought at all wrong in those days to catch men and women, and sell them for slaves, and Co-

lumbus was not the only captain who did such things.

When Columbus was at home this time he heard, probably, that the king of Portugal was more desirous than ever to discover a way to India around the Cape of Good Hope, and that in the summer of 1497 he had sent out one Vasco da Gama on an expedition down the coast of Africa for the purpose. Meantime, at the end of May, in the year 1498, Columbus himself sailed back to America for the third time. When his ships started out of the harbor of San Lucar, from which they sailed then, Vasco da Gama was safely anchored in the distant port of Calicut, in India. This was a town in Madras. It was a place of great importance at the time. It was not Calcutta, the capital of British India, and of Bengal, which is hundreds of miles farther east.

The commerce of the world had a new channel. Its course was completely changed. It was no longer necessary for men to take the old journey across the continents to India. Da Gama had passed the stormy cape in the November before Columbus started on his third voyage, but of course the great fact was not known in Spain, for the expedition did not reach Europe again until September, 1499.

It was on his third voyage that Columbus first saw the mainland of the Western Continent; but we shall learn that an Englishman had seen it before him. Columbus came upon the coast of South America. He was in the Gulf of Paria, into which the Oronoco River enters by three mouths.

There he heard the great waves roaring in the night, and thought it was the water of the four rivers of Paradise mentioned in the Bible as flowing out to water the earth. He still supposed that he had reached Asia, however; but we know that it was America. His success raised enemies about whom I do not like to read. He was actually sent back to Spain in chains like a wicked murderer or robber. Doubtless Columbus was not a good manager of affairs, and he may have made some mistakes, but this treatment seems quite too severe. Such is the style in which he arrived at the scene of his former triumphs, in 1501.

The people who had thronged around Columbus on his return from the first voyage proved true to him now. They showed so much resentment at his base treatment that Ferdinand was obliged to take off his chains; but he refused to restore his offices

and honors. All this did not crush the stout-hearted man. He wrote to the Pope that he still held to his determination to extend the Christian religion, and to take the sepulcher of Christ from the Saracens, and he constantly urged his sovereigns to assist him in the pious enterprise.

There was nothing in such a plan that in those days could be thought silly or visionary. Columbus had seen the Saracens conquered in Granada, and he thought there was no reason why they could not be overcome in Palestine, if only the Christians were determined enough. He had a great deal of faith and pluck, we know.

I have told you that it was on his return from the third voyage that Columbus heard of the success of Vasco da Gama. He also was told that another bold Portuguese had gone over the same track, and had returned with his ships full of the rich articles for which the Indies were famed. Everybody was talking about Calicut and the Indies, and Columbus was himself excited anew on the subject. You know that they had at first aroused his ambition. The gums and spices, the ivory and silk, the amber and porcelain, that the Portuguese had brought to their

sovereign might be found, if Columbus could discover a certain strait running through the "island" that stopped the way. He was quite sure that such a passage existed not far from the regions he had visited.

By one argument and another Columbus managed to excite the cupidity of Ferdinand, and on the ninth of May, 1502, he found himself master of a new fleet on his way over seas again. This voyage proved fruitless, and after many sufferings the admiral returned to Spain broken by age and worn out by hardships. He reached San Lucar, not far from Cadiz, in November, 1504. His money affairs were in confusion. He was himself heart-broken. After he had added its brightest gem to the crown of his sovereigns, he found himself cast off as useless.

Queen Isabella, his constant friend, died in 1504, and Columbus followed her on the twentieth of May, 1506. Ferdinand seems to have repented of his ill-treatment of his great subject, and erected a monument to his memory at Seville, on which he credited him with having given his country a new world. It would have been better if he had made his life pleasanter.

CHAPTER XVII.

INTEREST IN DISCOVERY EXTENDS.

MEANTIME the interest in American explorations had greatly spread, though the country was not yet called America. In England the Wars of the Roses, as they are called, closed in 1485, and the people began to send out vessels for one purpose or another. They had heard of Brazil, and they sent vessels to find it; they remembered old stories about the Island of the Seven Cities, which was said to lie to the westward, and they searched for that. Besides these ventures, there were others carried on by John Cabot and Sebastian, his son, under authority of the king. John Cabot was the first to see the coast of North America. He sailed some seven hundred leagues, and thought he had at last actually reached the country of the Grand

Cham that so many had longed to see. He landed in 1497, but we cannot tell exactly where, — perhaps it was on the dreary shores of Labrador, or on Cape Breton Island, — and took possession of the land in the name of King Henry the Seventh. He coasted along the shores, and then returned to Bristol, where the king gave him much honor; but little good did his voyage do England, except to make a foundation for a future claim to land on our continent.

Spain first, and then Portugal, sent out Amerigo Vespucci, an astronomer from Venice, who made several voyages between 1499 and 1505. Finally his name was given to the continent by a geographer who seems not to have reflected that Columbia would have been a more appropriate name for it. Gaspar Cortereal was another adventurer sent out by Portugal. He went in 1500, and brought back a cargo of natives that he sold as slaves. He went out the next year on a second voyage, and was not heard of again.

Ponce de Leon was a Spaniard who was with Columbus on his second voyage. He was especially interested in the Fountain of Youth. Ponce sailed

in 1512. He missed the Fountain, but discovered Florida, which he named because he found it on Palm Sunday, — which in his language is Pasqua Florida, — or because it seemed to him a land of flowers. Another companion of Columbus was Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, who crossed the Isthmus of Darien. He was the first European to see the great Pacific Ocean. He called it *Mer del Sur*, or South Sea, a name that it kept for a long time. This was in 1513.

These are the only names about which I shall have much to say, for I should tire you if I told you about all the adventurers who sailed for America in the early times. There were Cortes, who cruelly conquered Mexico; and Magellan, who was helped by Spain to fit out a fleet to seek the passage through our continent to India. Magellan was the first to sail in the Pacific Ocean.

There were Verrazano, an Italian of doubtful character, who was employed by the French, and probably visited New York bay and other portions of the coast; Pizarro, who conquered Peru, and robbed the inhabitants of large quantities of their gold; and Cabeza de Vaca and Francisco Coronado,

who explored Colorado, Arizona, and the Pacific coast of the present United States.

There are many stirring tales connected with each of these names; but we must not stop to tell them. They are found in larger books, which you will have the pleasure of reading one of these days.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE AMERICANS THE EXPLORERS FOUND.

THE English had been the first to see the real continent of America, but they did not know much about it, and they did not hesitate to accept the belief of those who had said that India was the country that had been discovered. They therefore also called the men whom they saw Indians.

This was a mistake; but the question has not been answered: Who were the men who were found on the continent? Perhaps they came to America from Asia. There is a point away off to the northwest, as I have told you, at which America and Asia come very close together. It is more important for us to learn what the inhabitants looked like and how they acted, than to know where they came from.

They have left their names all over North America. There is Erie, which was the name of one of their tribes; and there is Huron, which was the name of another. I read of Shawneetown in Illinois, which tells me that the Shawnee tribe once lived in that region; and there are Pottawatomie counties in Iowa and Kansas, which bear the name of another. There are the Miami River in Ohio, the Neenah in Wisconsin, Oneida Lake in New York, the city Tuscaloosa in Alabama, of Natchez in Mississippi, the Pasmotank river in North Carolina, the Sac in Missouri, the Housatonic river in Massachusetts, the Tunxis in Connecticut, the Tippencanoe in Indiana, and many other towns, rivers, lakes, and other objects which bear names that remind us of the early inhabitants. Would that there were even more of the musical ones, and fewer Centrevilles and South Solons and Skull Bones and Tombstones!

It would take a large history to tell the names of all the Indian tribes, and to describe the places in which they lived. Let us look at a few of them. In the north there were some accustomed to the great cold of such regions as Greenland, and Labrador, who were dull and stupid, living on fish and such

creatures as they could kill with their spears and arrows. Farther south the people were more intelligent. They sometimes built substantial houses of stone and sun-dried bricks, and were able to weave cloth and to make pottery.

In Colorado, Arizona, and Utah we find now stone houses perched far up on the rocky sides of great cañons,—those deep gorges that streams have worn out by long ages of steady flow. In these the inhabitants could easily keep their women and children safe from all danger from enemies. Indians did not usually build stone houses, but made the least protection they could. They put saplings in the ground, and, pulling their tops nearly together, covered them with skins of animals, or with bark, leaving a hole at the top for the smoke of their fires to rise and escape. This was a wigwam.

They are often called red or copper-colored, because they are accustomed to color their bodies, but they are really brown. If they lived in a warm climate, they liked to be troubled with but little clothing; but in the north they supplied themselves with enough furs and other coverings to make themselves warm. Though they were very hardy, they

wished to be comfortable. Like many other men and women, the Indians liked gay colors, and ornamented their bodies and clothing with the brilliant feathers of birds, and with shells and stones of attractive hues. When the men hunted and fished, the women dug the ground, so far as they ever did anything of that kind, and planted the seeds and gathered the harvest of nuts or acorns or Indian corn.

Of course their cooking was very simple. They could roast their venison and quails as well as we can, and probably they tasted as good to them as our game tastes to us; but they did not have stoves and ovens, and pots and pans of metal, and so there were many things they could not do in their kitchens. Indeed, their kitchens were not apartments by themselves, for all the operations of the household were carried on in the only room the wigwam had.

CHAPTER XIX.

THE FIRST WARS WITH THE SAVAGES.

IT was not very long after Columbus reached the Bahama Islands that war began between the ignorant savages of the woods and prairies and the civilized white men who professed to have sailed westward "to extend the Christian religion." That was a great mistake. Civilized men in those days thought that when they found any land not owned by a Christian prince they were at liberty to take possession of all it contained. They did not seem to reflect that its human inhabitants had any rights at all. This was not very Christian; but it took men a long, long time to learn what Christian dealing with others meant,—if, indeed, they know it to-day.

The result of this was that the poor, ignorant

Indian thought that all the whites who came to his land were his enemies. He saw plainly that they knew much more than he about many things, and he determined to do his best to protect himself and his squaws and his pappooses, as he called his women and children, from danger!

He knew that there was little use in his attempting to fight openly with his bow and arrows against men who could pour forth such terrible blasts of smoke and shot from their wonderful guns, and so he decided to be as sly as he could. He would creep up behind the white man and kill him when he was not looking!

He felt sure that the white man was determined to kill all the Indians he could, and therefore he said that he would kill all the white men that he could; and he would do it in the only way possible or safe for him. This is the reason why the men who came from Europe very soon reported that the Indians were cunning and sly and treacherous.

It is sad to think that this was the way in which the intelligent white men began to treat the savage Indian; but it is true. It is probably true

also that as the Indian found that he could overcome his new enemy only by cunning, he grew more and more sly and treacherous. That is natural. The Indian was brave, and perhaps he was haughty; certainly he was eloquent and very fiery when he was excited, but usually he did not care to waste his words, and spoke short and briefly. Often he was true to the white man, but he had very little encouragement to treat him well.

The Indians,— or some still earlier inhabitants of our country,— have left many mounds and earthworks which show by the articles that we can now dig out of them that at some time there were inhabitants here who probably cultivated the earth more than the Indians. They worked in stone and bone, and shell and copper, and could make very good earthen vessels. It is to be hoped that in future years something more definite may be learned from these mounds, many of which have not been explored. Perhaps some boy who reads these words will be the one to make discoveries about the "Mound-Builders," as these people are called.

CHAPTER XX.

THE SPANIARDS LOOK FOR GOLD.

IT was many years after Cabot saw the continent of America before any other Englishmen came to explore it farther, and in the mean time the Spanish and French sent out men and vessels to make discoveries. One of these adventurers, Francisco Orellana, heard that there was on the continent which we call South America a region called El Dorado, the Golden Land.

As he had but little gold, he started bravely out to find it. He entered the mouth of the Amazon river, and sailed some three thousand miles on its waters; but he had a terrible time. The Indians killed some of his men, and the others could not make their way back again, after they had been far up the river; and they found so little food that

they were forced to eat their saddles and their very shoes.

However, Orellana reached Spain at last, and told great stories of temples roofed with gold, and of a nation of "Amazons," or women warriors, like those that we read of in Greek mythology. His name was given to the river, though it was also called the Amazon, and he was sent back with much honor and power to explore it. He did not live long after he reached the Amazon the second time.

Among the followers of the cruel Pizarro there was Fernando de Soto, who tried to make him treat the natives kindly. De Soto received a share of the gold that was won by Pizarro's despotic brutality, however, and went home to Spain very rich. King Charles the Fifth received him much as Ferdinand had welcomed Columbus, and sent him back to conquer a vast territory reaching from the Atlantic indefinitely westward, — perhaps to the Pacific, which he called Florida. This was the country which De Vaca and Coronado had described, — the great interior land which is in our day rapidly filling up with inhabitants.

History tells us that Spain was stirred up in a

way that had not been known since the second voyage of Columbus, if, indeed, there had been such an excitement since the times of the Crusades. Everybody, rich, poor, high, low, honest, and dishonest, rushed to enlist under the banner of the commander who would certainly, they believed, lead them to the Fountain of Youth and the marvelous Land of Gold.

Crowds set sail in the spring of 1538, from San Lucar, and after a long voyage landed at Tampa Bay. They wandered about through the uninteresting swamps and sands of western Florida, until winter came. Then they wanted to go home, but De Soto said no. The Indians kept pointing to the west, as if the Land of Gold was always before the dispirited explorers; and at the end of another season they found themselves at some place southwest of the present site of Selma, Alabama, which they called Mauvila. There they had a bloody battle with the natives.

They wandered about until May, 1542, when De Soto died. They were then on the shores of the Mississippi, and beneath its waves the leader was buried, so that his body might not be found by the

Indians. It was more than a year before the remnant of the company that had so gayly set out from San Lucar sadly took shelter in a harbor of Cuba. They had found no gold; but the great river of North America was discovered, and Spain had established a good claim to the honor and the rights of discovery. We cannot be quite sure that no European had seen the Mississippi before; but it is certain that it was discovered by a Spaniard.

CHAPTER XXI.

GRAND TIMES IN EUROPE.

ALL this time France had not been idle, but she had been making explorations in a different part of the New World. Verrazano had been sent out by Francis I., in 1524, and had, as we know, visited northern coasts. He was the first explorer sent out by a French king.

Jacques Cartier was likewise sent out ten years later with the same number of men that Columbus took on his first voyage, but with only two vessels. He was to explore "New France," as the country was vaguely called, with no reference to the claims of former explorers.

Cartier landed on the coast of Labrador, after a short voyage, and solemnly took possession of the country in the name of the king of France, by

planting a cross. Probably he cared little whether Cabot had ever seen Labrador or not. He next went into the bay of the St. Lawrence, without knowing that it was the mouth of a river, however, and by September of the same year he was back again in France.

In 1535 Cartier was in the same region again. This time he sailed up the St. Lawrence, sure that he had found the strait that was to give him a passage through the continent to Cipango. He gave the name "Mount Royal" to the spot on which "Montreal" was afterward built. The two words mean the same thing, as you will see if you think of "regal," and remember that the letter *g* was formerly often pronounced like *y*.

Cartier went home again in 1536, carrying back ten chiefs whom he had stolen from their native woods. He returned to the New World, however, in 1541, but at last became discouraged and gave up all hope of making any permanent settlement.

These were grand times in Europe. Men everywhere were full of great projects; there were great kings in the different countries, and they felt the influence of the enterprise that stimulated their sub-

jects. You may read of a meeting of the kings in France about twenty years after Vasco da Gama had sailed around the Cape of Good Hope. It was held in the flowery month of June, 1520, four years before Verrazano had been sent out by one of the kings who was present.

This was called the Field of the Cloth of Gold, because everything about it was so rich and gay. There were present Henry the Eighth of England, Francis the First of France, and Charles the Fifth of Germany. Many of the courtiers spent so much gold coin on their clothes and armor, and on their attendants and equipage, that they were kept in poverty all the rest of their lives. It was vain splendor, but it was not unlike much of the grandeur of the times. It was not the only expensive enterprise that came to nothing.

In Italy there was another great ruler. His name was Leo the Tenth, and he did so much for the age in which he lived that it has ever since been called, after him, the "Age of Leo the Tenth," as though nothing greater could be said about it. He was the Pope. He was not present at the Field of the Cloth of Gold. He was a patron of

literature and art, and did not send out explorers as the kings of France, Spain, and England did. He certainly helped to make the age a grand one.

At about the same time an important event occurred in Germany which was destined to have much influence upon American affairs. The division between Catholics and Protestants was then made by one Martin Luther, a priest, who protested against what he thought was wrong in the church of which Leo the Tenth was the head. The name "Protestant" was not used until 1529.

Henry the Eighth and the English became Protestants, while France and Spain remained Catholic. The strife between Protestants and Catholics grew very hot, and it was carried everywhere that they went over the earth. Each party thought itself right and the other wrong.

The first explorers of America had all been Catholics, but now the Protestants began to take part in sending out expeditions.

CHAPTER XXII.

BAD WORK IN FLORIDA.

THE first of the Protestants to come to America were French, for there were some Protestants in France. They were called Huguenots. They reached the coast of what is now South Carolina. The region was included in Florida, which, you know, was claimed by Spain. It was in the spring of 1562. The emigrants were charmed by the odors of the flowers, and by the beauties of nature all around. Like Cartier, they took possession of the country in the name of the king of France. They built a fort, but accomplished little more.

Many returned to France, but some never saw home again. They died after great sufferings. There was a war then between Catholics and Protestants.

It had begun soon after these settlers had left home, and it was that which put an end to their efforts.

Another party arrived, however, from France, in 1564, and landed on the banks of the St. John's River, which we still include in Florida. It had no more success than the one that had come before; and all were about to return home, when a fleet appeared in the distance bringing more men. This revived their failing courage; but it was only for a time. The new-comers were followed almost immediately by a number of ships sent out from Spain by Philip the Second, son of Charles the Fifth. It had the cruel orders to sweep the Protestant settlement from the face of the earth. The French were considered as pirates by their enemies, the Spaniards; and pirates did not deserve much mercy then, any more than they now do. Many French sailors had, indeed, pretended to be Protestants, and under the mask of religion had captured ships of the Spaniards, treating their owners with great cruelty.

The commander of the Catholic expedition was one Menendez. He had more than twenty-five hundred men with him, and he began a town on September 3, which he named St. Augustine. This

proved the first permanent settlement on land now within the limits of the United States.

Menendez announced the purpose of his visit, and the commander of the French boldly sailed out to oppose him. The attacking vessels were destroyed by a storm, and Menendez then broke up the French settlement, leaving an inscription saying that the men had been slaughtered, not as Frenchmen, but as Lutherans. This was in 1565.

Three years afterward another French fleet arrived, with orders to avenge the slaughter of the Protestants. The Spanish fort was attacked, and all its inmates put to the sword, except a few who were hanged, with an inscription over them, burned with a hot iron into a piece of pine, "Not as Spaniards, but as Traitors, Robbers, and Murderers." This done, the French fleet sailed back again. The land remained in the hands of the few Spaniards who had not been in the fort.

Now we have the French claiming New France, — stretching from Florida to Newfoundland. The Spanish claimed Florida, which, according to them, comprised the whole of the continent, under a bull of the Pope given to Columbus on his first return from the West Indies.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE DAYS OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

ENGLAND had not done much in the way of looking up new lands in the West since Cabot saw the shores that he called *Prima Vista*, which means First View, wherever they were. There were good reasons for this. Henry the Eighth had been fully occupied with affairs in England and on the continent during his reign, and his struggle with the Pope had called for much attention. His son and daughter, Edward the Sixth, and Mary, likewise had their hands full near at home. Mary, too, had married Philip the Second, king of Spain, and did not care to interfere with the affairs of his people in the new country.

We have come to a different period now. Elizabeth, the strong daughter of Henry the Eighth, stood

at the head of the English nation. The period has been called by her name, so much did she have to do with making it a great one, and so much more brilliant was it than the ages that had gone before. Like her father, Elizabeth was the representative of the cause of the Protestants. She was fortunate in having about her a remarkable group of public men, in all walks of life.

These men began to think that Spain was gaining too much money and land in America. They saw that it was from those shores that Philip obtained the wealth that enabled him to fight his wars against their country and Holland, and they tried to think of some plan by which they could overthrow his American authority. Everything was in their favor.

England was not troubled by war, and its thrifty people were making money on their farms, and by their commerce, which was increasing all the time. The land that had formerly been held by the monks and the monasteries was distributed among the people; and money was no longer sent out of the country to the Pope at Rome. Travelers in England can see now some of the grand and beautiful houses that the wealthy men put up in the time of this great queen.

How could harm be done to Spain? That was the question. Pirates and smugglers might attack their settlements on the Atlantic coast, and they might rob their ships as they sailed from the West; but that was dangerous, and could effect but little.

Two daring sailors thought out a new plan. They would go around America. One of them determined to attack the Spanish on the Pacific. The vessels there he knew were poorly manned, and the ports were protected but little. One of these adventurers was named Drake and the other Frobisher. The first was a pirate, the second an explorer, though both wanted to get gold. I shall tell you about them soon.

Queen Elizabeth was wise and full of tact. She encouraged her subjects to build ships; she walked about the shipyards; took the hands of the rough captains in her own; and drank their healths as she left them. Her cannon thundered farewells as the outgoing vessels sailed past her palace, and her voice welcomed the worn seamen as they returned to tell of the wonders they had seen and the dangers they had escaped. She encircled their necks with golden chains, and made them knights after

their victories were won. She taught her subjects that she watched their interests and prized their services, and that no good deed done for England was to be unrewarded and forgotten. Thus she gave them an incentive to carry the flag that she had consecrated around the globe, and they carried it.

Besides all these influences, there was another that was very powerful. Englishmen had become more learned. We cannot stop here to speak of the great writers that were printing books in the second half of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. Perhaps you have heard of Bacon and Spenser and Hooker and Marlowe and Sidney, and of Shakespeare, the greatest of all of them. In fact Shakespeare was so great that we have never had another equal to him.

There was only one of the explorers, however, who seems to have been touched by this influence. He was a literary man himself. His name was Raleigh, and he determined to do what he could to make his native country mistress of the seas. He accomplished a great deal, though it seemed at the time that all his ventures had failed. The poet Spenser called him the "Shepherd of the Ocean."

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE GREAT ENGLISH PIRATE.

ONE of the men who had made plans to sail around America was Sir Francis Drake. He thought it was an island, though a very big one. He had been brought up as a boy among seamen, and thus had become quite familiar with stories of adventure and bravery. His father was poor, and eked out a livelihood by teaching and reading prayers among sailors, under warrant of officers of the queen. This poverty led the father to send his son to sea.

Sir John Hawkins, the pioneer naval hero of the age, the first among the English adventurers, had already made great gain by "smuggling." That is, he managed to get goods from other lands into England secretly, without paying the lawful tax to the government.

When he became a pirate, Drake took a step in advance of Hawkins; but before long piracy became a popular and lawful business. He sailed out wherever he thought he could find ships well loaded, and fought them. Many Spanish ships came to Europe with gold. If he could, Drake took all that they had on board that he wished, and sailed away, thinking that he had done an honorable deed.

Drake became acquainted with Hawkins, of whom I just spoke. He had gone to Guinea in 1562 and taken three hundred black people to the West Indies, where he sold them for slaves. Drake went with him on another expedition, and lost everything that he had stolen before.

Then it was that he began to rob Spanish ships. He was told by a careless chaplain that his acts were legal, and that he might well take what he could from them, because he had lost so much by them. This was in 1567.

In 1572 Queen Elizabeth sent him out on an expedition to the West Indies. He went across the Isthmus of Darien, and climbed a giant tree which stood on a hill. From this perch he looked at the Pacific Ocean, and prayed God to permit him some

day to sail an English ship there. Though he was a pirate and a robber, he did not give up praying, for, as I have said, he was taught that piracy and such robbery as he committed were not wrong. Afterward he sailed home full of his great project. One August Sunday he arrived at Plymouth, in England, and almost everybody hurried out of church to see him,—so proud were they of their hero. The minister had but two or three left to hear his sermon!

In 1577 Drake was again ready to sail westward. This time he went out under the patronage of his queen, and took with him a number of nobles who wished to "learn the art of navigation," as they said; but who probably thought a good deal more of the gold that they might steal from rich Spanish vessels that they should find. They sailed along the coast of South America until they reached Patagonia.

Drake passed safely through the Straits of Magellan, and then went along the coast, pillaging Spanish towns and vessels, and gaining great sums of treasure. He did not stop until he had reached a point off the coast of our state of Oregon, when his

men grievously complained of being pinched by the cold, though it was in June. He then turned about, and after sailing some two or three hundred miles entered a "fair and good bay" to rest and make repairs; probably the one which still bears his name on our maps. It is only a short distance north of San Francisco, and is sometimes called Jack's Bay.

Because the coast was lined with white banks and cliffs toward the sea, reminding him of the "white cliffs of Albion," Drake called the region New Albion, and took possession of it in the name of his queen. He engraved her majesty's name on a plate, with the date, and fixed it to a fair post. Under the plate he nailed an English sixpence, on which there was a portrait of Elizabeth. He did not fail also to write his own name down.

With so much gold as he had, Drake was afraid to sail over the route by which he had gone out, and therefore he struck directly across the Pacific, and around the Cape of Good Hope. It was on a Sunday in September, 1580, that he reached England. The queen was proud to dine on board the ship that had gone all around the world. She made its commander a knight, — "Sir" Francis Drake; and she

ordered the vessel to be drawn up on land and preserved as a memorial of the event and a monument to the greatest of English pirates! Sir Francis Drake died on one of his later expeditions, and was buried in the sea. A poet wrote in his praise,—

"The waves became his winding-sheet, the waters were his tomb;
But for his fame the Ocean sea was not sufficient room."

The Spaniards protested against these acts of the great pirate; but the English laid it down as a law of nations that no government could claim a continent, either because the Pope had given it, or by reason of having built huts here and there on its coasts. Other peoples were at liberty to sail in such seas as the Pacific, and to plant colonies at places that were not inhabited. England was strong enough to enforce this law.

Now, Elizabeth declared, England had all the rights that there were on the ocean and on the land, in the New World, in spite of any claims that Spain might make. No Englishman had ever before this sailed all around the earth, and you may imagine that it was a great encouragement to all adventurers and traders.

CHAPTER XXV.

TRYING TO SAIL AROUND AMERICA.

THREE years before this, in 1576, Queen Elizabeth, who had encouraged her sailors in every way, had waved her royal hand in farewell to the other of the two great navigators of whom I have told you, Sir Martin Frobisher. He went to the northwest under the patronage of the Earl of Warwick, to get gold and find a passage to China around the north of our continent; though, of course, like the others, he thought America was no more than an island,—a large one, perhaps,—that stopped the way.

Frobisher had been obliged to wait fifteen years before he could find any one willing to help him fit out his fleet. That was much longer than Columbus had to wait. When at last he started, he

sailed bravely across, and left his name on a strait in the frozen land. He took possession of the region for his queen. England owns it still.

One voyage did not satisfy him, however, and he sailed again, and perhaps a third time. The region that he discovered was called *Meta Incognita*, which is the Latin for "Unknown Bourn" or "Limit." He thought it was the coast of Asia. A piece of black stone, like seacoal, which he brought back, was said by a London alchemist or goldfinder to be rich in the precious metal, and when Frobisher reached the same region a second time he wasted two months by loading his ship with the black stones. They were found to be almost if not quite worthless when they were again examined. This was a sad disappointment.

Nothing seemed to discourage brave Englishmen from trying to learn all they could about Newfoundland, as the New World was called at this time, and from making efforts to establish colonies of their countrymen there. Two other nobles, courtiers of the great queen, were moved to try their fortunes in this way. They were Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh, who were half-brothers.

Both of these men were learned and of high character. They had fought for Protestantism in France and had served in Parliament at home.

Gilbert once wrote a "discourse" especially to prove that there must be such a northwest passage to Cathay as Frobisher had sought, and he had indeed been the means of inducing that captain to make his attempt. The queen gave to Gilbert important privileges similar to those that had before been granted to Cabot by King Henry the Seventh, and he prepared an expedition commissioned to establish a colony. He saw the great advantages that came to Spain from her Western possessions, and, like a true patriot, he wished to gain for England the same sources of power and wealth. He was to establish his settlers at some point between the French on the north and the Spaniards on the south, and therefore quite distant from the Meta Incognita.

Gilbert searched for a region known as "Norumbega," for which many others had looked and were afterward to look in vain. He took with him a learned man named Parmenius to sing the praises of the fair land in Latin verse. Verrazano had

marked it on his map in 1529. Ten years later it was thought to be a rich territory reaching from New Brunswick to Florida. John Smith considered "New England" to be Norumbega, but he included Virginia in it. Sometimes it was a great town, or an island, on the coast of Maine. Would that we could bring Norumbega out of the region of fable and romance! Would that Smith had left it, instead of "New England," as the name of that part of our country!

The ships of Gilbert went out in 1578, but they missed land, and were forced to return without success. It was five years before another attempt could be made. Then the island of Newfoundland was reached, and the name which had before been applied to the continent was given to it. It was taken possession of in the name of the queen. On the voyage home Sir Humphrey was lost, and nothing came of his attempt. Mr. Longfellow once wrote a poem on this sad event. It is called "Sir Humphrey Gilbert." In it you will see what a good man the poet thought the navigator was.

CHAPTER XXVI.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S EFFORTS END IN SMOKE.

IN spite of this ill success, Raleigh was none the less determined to "plant" colonies in America, as they said in those days. A "plant" is something that is expected to grow, and this is the reason why a colony was so called. It was intended to grow. Raleigh was disappointed in his noble expectations, however. The year after poor Gilbert went down, Raleigh sent out two ships.

They reached land off the shores of what is now North Carolina, and called it Virginia, because Elizabeth was so fond of being spoken of as the "virgin" queen. The explorers brought back two natives, and reported that the country was the most fertile in the world, that fruits and game abounded, and that the natives were very gentle, loving, and faithful,

and lived after the manner described by the poets in speaking of the golden age!

Nothing had really been accomplished, but as soon as possible another expedition was made ready, and a body of one hundred and eighty persons was carried over the Atlantic and left on Roanoke Island, in the limits of the present state of North Carolina. The emigrants suffered a great deal, and took the first opportunity to get back to England. Scarcely had they left, however, when another party arrived to give them help. The commander concluded to leave a few sailors behind to keep the place, and then hastened to England himself. All whom he left were soon killed by the natives.

In 1587 another party still was on the spot. Not long after its arrival the first child of English parents that was ever born in America appeared. She was Virginia Dare. The colony was left without any care until 1590, because in the mean time the attention of all England, and especially of Sir Walter Raleigh, was fixed on a war with Spain in which a tremendous fleet of ships called the "Armada" was sent against England. It was almost miraculously destroyed, and then it was possible to think again of the poor colonists in "Virginia."

In the spring of 1590 ships were sent to Roanoke to look after them; but, alas! they were not to be found! Little Virginia Dare was gone; all were gone! The colony was lost. Had the people starved slowly to death? Had the Indians killed them? We can only imagine.

Thus ended another great enterprise. It is wonderful how bravely men kept trying to get around America, and sail to the Indies, and how nothing was dreadful enough to hinder them from trying to build homes on our coasts. For a time Englishmen were naturally not anxious to try again to establish themselves in America. They had not gained much thus far. It used to be said that Sir Walter Raleigh brought tobacco and potatoes to Europe; but potatoes had been described by Peter Martyr seventy years before, and we are sure that Columbus saw the Indians smoking tobacco when he first landed. It had been used in Southern Europe long before this, but Raleigh may have shown Englishmen how to smoke it themselves. If so, this was all that came immediately from his noble efforts, though they did not finally end in smoke.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE ENGLISH KINGS AND QUEENS.

WE have now reached the time when the English accomplished something in their efforts to send men and women to the new country, which they had all along claimed was theirs by right of Cabot's discovery. We cannot understand the history of our continent at this period, or at any period, in fact, without knowing much about the history of England at the same time. Much that was done here was very closely connected, too, as we have already seen, with events in other countries of Europe.

After Queen Elizabeth died the crown passed to James, son of Mary the unfortunate Queen of Scotland. Elizabeth had put Mary to death, after keeping her in prison for twenty years. Thus the Tudor

family of rulers, to which Henry the Eighth and Elizabeth belonged, gave way to the Stuart family, which was a very old one.

The first Stuart ancestor came to England from France at the time of the conquest by the Normans, five hundred years before the reign of King James. His son became "steward" of Scotland, and, as the office descended to his children, the name was given to the whole family. It was afterwards spelled Steuart, and then Stuart. This was a most unfortunate family. Its history is very romantic. One member of it was Robert Bruce, an ancient king of Scotland, who fought bravely against the English, but was terribly defeated at the battle of Bannockburn.

There were six Stuart sovereigns in England. They ruled from 1603 to 1714, — one hundred and eleven years. During this time most of the English settlements were made in our country.

The Stuart family was a good deal older, but not so great and strong as the Tudors had been. The Tudors were cruel and despotic, and oppressed their subjects, and the Stuarts were no better. Finally the people took matters into their own hands, cut off the head of Charles the First, the

Stuart king who happened to be on the throne at the time, and for a few years governed themselves.

The first Stuart came from France; Mary Queen of Scots was a long time in that country (in fact, she was wife of its king, and therefore its queen for a while); and we shall find that when the English people took the government into their own hands the member of the Stuart family who would otherwise have been king went to France to stay.

The result of all this was that the Stuarts resembled the French in many ways. They fancied the graceful manners of that people, and they were most of them Catholics, too, or if they were not actually Catholics, they did not like the Protestants.

As the English became more strongly Protestant, they resolved not to have the Stuarts rule them, and called Mary to the throne, because, though she was daughter of King James the Second, she had married a Protestant. This was a great revolution. The husband and wife were king and queen together. Mary's sister Anne reigned after her. She was also a Protestant. We shall do well not to forget these facts about the kings and queens of England at this time.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S LAST EFFORTS.

SIR Walter Raleigh seems never to have been at all discouraged about making settlements in America. In spite of all his former failures, he determined upon one more venture, and encouraged Bartholomew Gosnold to sail straight across the ocean to "Norumbega." By taking the direct course he saved a thousand miles over former voyages. This was in 1602, just at the end of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

Gosnold saw the coast of Maine, which he supposed to be the veritable "Norumbega," and discovered Cape Cod, which he gave its present name. As he stepped ashore there, he was the first Englishman who ever trod the soil of New England, as it is now defined. The expedition continued on to

Buzzard's Bay, where a fort was begun by Gosnold on an island that he named Elizabeth, for his queen. It is now called Cuttyhunk. Though this navigator wished to honor his queen instead of himself, he has not been forgotten. There are sixteen little islands called Elizabeth now, and one hundred people live on them. They form together at own called Gosnold.

This expedition did not accomplish more than the others had. The explorers made excursions upon the mainland, loaded their vessel with sassafras, then much esteemed in Europe as a medicine, and with cedar, and sailed back to England, where they arrived after an absence of four months. They had no bread left, and only a little vinegar to revive their spirits. Raleigh was not cast down, but said that he expected yet to see America an English nation.

In the spring of 1603 some merchants of Bristol, with authority from Raleigh, planned another effort. This is a new evidence of the perseverance of the English. They sent one expedition after another out, though none seemed to prosper.

This one sailed under command of Martin Pring, about two weeks after Queen Elizabeth died, and

only three days after the new sovereign, King James, arrived in London. It was well supplied with such knick-knacks as the Indians liked, which it was hoped to exchange for sassafras. Pring sighted the islands of Maine in June, and sailed southward. He crossed Massachusetts Bay and entered Plymouth harbor, where he remained six weeks and obtained sassafras. The expedition was at home in England by August. Sassafras was all it carried back.

This may be called the last effort of Raleigh for America. He was almost immediately cast into prison by King James, and after many years of confinement was executed. We must remember him for what he persistently tried to do for our country. Indeed, we cannot forget that all the unsuccessful voyages made the way clear for those which followed.

CHAPTER XXIX.

ENGLISH ADVENTURERS MORE RESTLESS THAN EVER.

IN spite of all these discouragements wonderful stories got abroad in England of the wealth that was to be had in America for the taking. It was represented in a popular play that gold was as plenty there as copper in the old country; that prisoners were fettered in chains of that precious metal; that rubies and diamonds were to be caught up by the handful; that men of low birth might quickly rise in the social scale; in fact, that nothing was impossible that the wildest imagination could conceive.

After the expeditions of Gosnold and Pring had returned, another was sent to see if what they said was true. It went out in 1605, under George Weymouth. These expeditions were all commanded by

able navigators, and were often sent out under the direction of earls and lords.

Besides the titled patrons, there was the Rev. Richard Hakluyt who was interested in many of the expeditions. He was a scholar, and all the steps that he took were based on the best information that could be obtained. He was connected with the enterprises of Raleigh, and interested in the operations of Drake; and he collected long accounts of most of the voyages and discoveries of the English. They would probably have been lost but for his pains. He wrote of more than two hundred expeditions.

The war with Spain was over, and no longer excited adventurers. Thus the incentive that had sent Drake off to the Pacific Ocean did not exist any longer; but there was now another reason why Englishmen should wish to search the American continent. The war had given the restless opportunities for adventure which peace did not offer, at home at least; but many thought that they could find the excitement they needed in the effort to make settlements in a new land. There were Indians to be fought with, and perhaps there was gold to be got. At any rate, they would see.

A new plan was now begun. In the past every man had undertaken his enterprise alone, or with a few associates. Now it was proposed to form companies for the purpose of sending Englishmen to America. Naturally a man who entered into such a company expected to get some gain from it, and probably he thought that his chances would be greater because he had others with him.

Gosnold was of course among the most interested in the new plan. He seems to have brought in Hakluyt, with his common sense and wisdom. There happened to come home to England, just at that time, a man named John Smith, who told wonderful stories about his adventures. He said that he had fought in battles in Europe, Asia, and Africa; had been made captive by the terrible Turks, sold as a slave, and sent off to a distant prison; that he had escaped by wonderful skill and boldness, and at last had found refuge on an English ship which happened to be visiting the country of the Moors, where he was.

Such a man as that seemed to Gosnold and the others just the kind for an expedition to America. Of course, no one knew exactly how much of his

wonderful story to believe; but they do not seem to have objected to his company on that account. He was a man of ability; of that there was no doubt.

There was also a certain Ferdinando Gorges, who wanted to become owner of some of the lands of America, and as he had a good deal of money and influence, he was considered a favorable person to be interested in the new company. He had a friend, Sir John Popham, who was a chief justice, and he joined the company also.

Among the others there was a rich merchant of London by the name of Edward Maria Wingfield, whose character was said by Smith to be not of the best. However, he was considered by others to be a gentleman, and was accepted as a partner. When the company asked the king to give them the privilege of making "plantations" in America under his authority, he decided to let them try.

CHAPTER XXX.

KING JAMES'S COUNCIL FOR VIRGINIA.

KING James selected thirteen men to be a Council in England to look after the enterprise, so that through them he could manage it himself. This was called the Council for Virginia. It was to make the laws for the Colonists. Two companies were formed. The first was called the London Company, because its members belonged to London. The second was called the Plymouth Company, because its members lived in the region of Bristol, Exeter, and Plymouth, England.

The two companies were to plant their colonies between those parts of America occupied in a loose way by Spain and France, — that is, between South Carolina and New Brunswick, as our maps mark the country now. They were not to put their settle-

ments so near together as to run any risk of disputes. One hundred miles was to be allowed between a colony of one company and a colony of the other.

The London Company was to make its settlements south of the line of Maryland. The Plymouth Company might not plant a colony farther south than the spot where New Haven now is. They were at liberty at first to occupy only a short distance from the ocean, but afterward they were permitted to go as far west as the Pacific coast, if they pleased. The region between New Haven and Maryland was open to both, only they were not to get nearer together than one hundred miles. One would think this would keep them from quarreling!

The companies were formed of men who did not generally intend to leave their comfortable homes; but they were to have authority over those who should go. All who went were to remain Englishmen. This was a privilege that they prized very much. Their religion was to be that of the country they had left. They were to give the king in return for his patent one fifth of the produce of the gold and silver, and one fifteenth of the copper obtained, after paying the expenses of digging it.

CHAPTER XXXI.

VIRGINIA SETTLED.

IT was in 1606 that the king gave the patents to the companies. A "patent" is a document which is open for everybody to read; and it generally gives a privilege to the owner of which he is glad to have others know. "Patent" means open.

Just at the end of the year, on the nineteenth of December, the London Company was ready to send out a fleet. It consisted of three vessels, with about one hundred men. They did not take their wives and children. They were like the men who went to California forty years ago to dig gold; they thought that a new country was no place for women and children. Perhaps they remembered the fate of Virginia Dare and her mother.

It was the middle of May before the fleet reached the end of its journey. They decided to begin their town some fifty miles up the James river. They named the river in honor of their king. The settlement was to be called Jamestown.

They had named the capes, at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay, Charles and Henry, after the king's sons; and they fixed "Point Comfort" on the spot where it still remains, because it comforted them to see land after their long voyage.

They were not the people to build a town; there were but four carpenters, and the others were not accustomed to labor with their hands. Some did not know how, and others would not. The result was that the colony did not prosper.

John Smith was of their number, but he was not able to keep them in order. He went up the rivers to see if he could find "Norumbega," or a passage through to Asia, and when he got safe back he told great stories about his adventures.

Perhaps some things were true that he told, but we cannot be sure how much was imaginary. He made the acquaintance of an Indian chief, Powhatan, whom he thought a mighty prince, like

some that he had heard of in the kingdom of the Grand Cham. He risked his life among the savages, but his tact and strength saved him. When Smith wrote an account of his explorations, he said that Powhatan treated him kindly; but some years later he added that at one time the old chief was about to dash his brains out with a club, and that his little daughter Pocahontas threw herself upon him and saved his life. This story is doubted now. The colony dragged along in misery and trouble for several years. Its numbers were much reduced by deaths, but new colonists came. New charters were granted, and other changes made; but still the settlement did not thrive. The Company had expected to gain sudden wealth, and had been disappointed.

Meantime the Plymouth Company sent out a colony under Captain George Popham. It sailed from Plymouth in May, 1607, just after the other colonists had reached Jamestown. There were two ships, and a hundred settlers; they had ample supplies. Their voyage was scarcely one-half as long as that of the London colonists; but they were not at all pleased with the coast of Maine on which they landed, though it was in August, the month during

which thousands of people now-a-days rush thither for pleasure. More than one-half returned with the ships they had come on, and the others only stayed through the winter. They coined many excuses, and among other reasons said that the country was too cold for Englishmen.

Thus was the continent of America discovered. Thus did enterprising men of different European nations explore it, and begin to establish themselves upon its shores. The age of Colonization has been called one of the grandest and most sublime the earth has ever witnessed, and its story the "prose epic of the modern English nation."

EXPLANATION

OF THE PRONUNCIATION AND MEANING OF A FEW WORDS.

Alchemist (*al'kĕm-ist*), one who tries to make gold, 104.

Alham'bra, a great palace of the Moors, 43.

Astrolabe (*as'tro-lābe*, *astron*, a star), an instrument, 38.

Astrol'oger, a student of the stars, 33.

Barque, a small vessel, 51.

Boabdil (*bo-ab-del'*), the last Moorish king of Granada, 45.

Brandan, St., an abbot from Scotland or Ireland who sailed into the ocean, 34.

Caravels defined, 34.

Cardinal, a dignitary of the Church, 40.

Cartier (*kar'tee-yā*), 33.

Cathay, an old name for China, 23.

Cham (*kăm*), the ruler of a region in Asia, 23.

Charger, a war-horse, 63.

Cipango (*sipango*), Japan, 23.

Colony, a company of people transplanted from one country to another, but still connected with the fatherland, 109.

Columbus, ideas of, regarding the shape of the earth, 36.

Compass, an instrument by means of which ships are guided, 22, 38.

Conference, a meeting for discussion, 42.

Cortereal (*cor-tay-ray-ăl'*), 73.

Counselors, persons who give advice, 41.

Crusaders (Latin *crux*, a cross), cross-bearers who went to fight the Saracens, 22.

Cupidity, longing for riches, 71.

Cylinder, a body of the form of a roller, 13.

Diaz (*dee-az*), Bartholomew, discovers the Cape of Good Hope, 25.

Diego (*dē-āgo*), Columbus, 33.

Earth, shape of the, 13, 14.

England, history of, 7.

Fiord, a long narrow bay with high rocks on its sides, 13.

Forlorn hope, a desperate case, 41.
Gold Coast, a region in Western Africa, near the equator, 32.
Gorges (*gŏr'jez*), 119.
Granada, fall of, 47.
Hakluyt (*hăk'loot*), 117.
History, a true story of events, 7.
Knick-knacks, trifles, toys, 115.
Labrador, so called because in Portuguese *labrador* means, "which can be cultivated," 17.
Leif (*līfe*), the so-called discoverer of Vinland, 19.
Loadstone (better spelled *lodestone*), the natural magnet, 16.
Magellan (*mă-jel'lan*), sails around the globe, 13.
Mandeville, Sir John, suspected to be a myth, 14.
Maps in the olden time, 30.
Mediterranean, from two Latin words meaning "in the midst of land," 13.
Moslems, Saracens, 37.
Niña (*neen'yă*), a ship of Columbus, 53.
Parchment, skin prepared for writing on, 58.
Pasqua Florida (*paska*), 74.
Polo, Marco, a great traveler, 23.
Printing, invention of, 29.
Ponce de Leon (*ponse de le'on*), 73.
Powhatan (*pŏw-hăt-tan'*), 124.
Quadrant, invention of the, 38.
Roanoke (*ro'an-ōke*), 103.
Saga (*sāgă*), a saying, a heroic tale of the Norsemen, 13.
Saracens, followers of Mohammed, 21.
Salamanca (*sălămăng'ka*), a strong city of Spain, 42.
Santa Fé (*săntă fay*), 48.
Sepulcher, a grave, 49.
Seville (*sev'il*), a city of Spain, sixty miles from Cadiz, 43.
Sirens, fascinating women of mythology, 16.
Skald (*skăld*), an ancient bard of the north-lands, 13.
Speculator, one who enters on risky business, 67.
Squadron, a number of vessels under command of one officer, 53.
Tartary, the land of the Grand Cham, 26.
Toscanelli, Paolo (*pa-ōlō*), 33.
Triumph, a pompous ceremony in ancient times, 62.
Valparaiso (*val-pă-ry'zo*), 59.
Vespucci, Amerigo (*ves-pootchee, ah-may-ree-go*), 73.
Viking (*vīk'ing*), pirates from the North. Vick means a bay or fiord, 18.
Vinland, visit of the Norsemen to, 19.
Virgin, a maiden, 107.
Warwick (*wŏrick*), 103.
West, movement of men to the, 15.
Youth, fountain of, 23.

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